

Remarks/Arguments

Without prejudice in the future, to argue against the examiner's rejections of the original claims 1-8 and / or pursue broader claims, or pursue substantially the same claims as the original claims, to advance the present application, the applicant has amended independent claim 1 to make it clear that the first coating material is a non-foam material that is different than the foam material.

A coating is a thin layer that is spread over the surface of something, which in this case is the foam material.

The original specification indicates at para 0038, that the preferred coating is "compatible" with the foam material. This indicates that the coating is not of the same material as the foam material. Two materials are not referred to as being "compatible" if they are the same materials; they are different materials.

Additionally, it is clear in the original specification that the coating material does not have to be a foam material. At para. 0044 of the specification as originally filed, it is stated:

"The combination of the first foam material and coating material exits extrusion apparatus 10 at egress 54 of extrusion die 50. As the combination exits, it expands due to the active foaming agent mixed in the first foam material." (emphasis added)

Also, with reference to Fig. 6, it is apparent that the helical stripe is only a surface covering and does not extend into the body of the article, and thus is not depicting a coating, which is a foaming material.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that it is clear from the original specification that the coating material may be a non-foaming material that is different than the coating material, and thus the amendments made to claim 1 are supported by the original specification.

With respect to the examiner's objections based on prior art, Knauss by contrast to applicant's invention as claimed in amended claim 1, teaches the manufacture of a composition of two foam materials.

Johnson teaches the uniting of two rubbers to provide a rubber stripe on a rubber body.

Neither Knauss nor Johnson teaches the application of one type of non-foam material to coat another type of foam material in an extrusion process.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, and claims 2-5 and 7-8 that are dependent thereon, are patentable over the prior art of record.

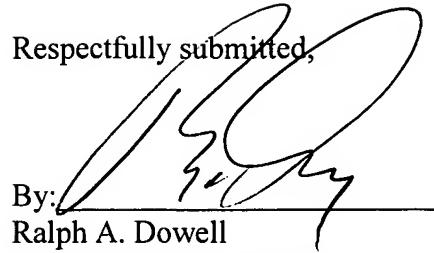
Claim 2 has also been amended to provide that the foam material is held rotationally stationary about the axial movement axis. By contrast, in Johnson the die is rotated, thus rotating the body-forming rubber material. In applicant's invention as defined by amended claim 2, there are significant advantages associated with maintaining the foam material rotationally stationary about the axial movement axis and rotating the applicator around the foam material. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 as amended, is also patentable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favourable reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

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- Page 8 -

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